BATTLE CLUB™

YUJI SHIOZAKI

3

EXPLICIT CONTENT
PARENTAL ADVISORY
EXPLICIT CONTENT

TOKYOPOP

バトルクラブ

[Battle Club]

Yuji Shiozaki

3

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BATTLE CLUB

VOLUME 3
BY YUJI SHIOZAKI

TOKYOPOP®

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BATTLE
CLUB

PREVIOUSLY IN

BATTLE CLUB

WHEN MOKICHI JOINED SWAN ACADEMY'S WRESTLING CLUB, HE THOUGHT HE'D HAVE IT MADE. HE'D LEARN HOW TO KICK SOME BUTT AND ROLL AROUND ON THE MATS WITH A BUNCH OF SWEATY-SWEETIES ALL AT THE SAME TIME. AWESOME! BUT THEN THAT CRAZY OL' CODGER TONDEMON TELLS THEM TO GO TRAIN UP IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, AND NOW THEY'RE BATTLING A BUNCH OF GUARDIAN GOONS FOR SOME CRUSTY OLD SCROLLS. THAT STINKS! LUCKILY FOR MOKICHI, THAT CUTIE TAMAKO SAVED HIS BACON ON THE BRIDGE, ONLY TO TAKE A HEADER INTO THE RAVINE HERSELF! HOW COULD SHE HAVE SURVIVED? LET'S CHECK IT OUT...!

ROUND 1 ..... [7]
ROUND 2 ..... [29]
ROUND 3 ..... [53]
ROUND 4 ..... [77]
ROUND 5 ..... [97]
ROUND 6 ..... [121]
ROUND 7 ..... [145]
AFTERWORD ..... [169]

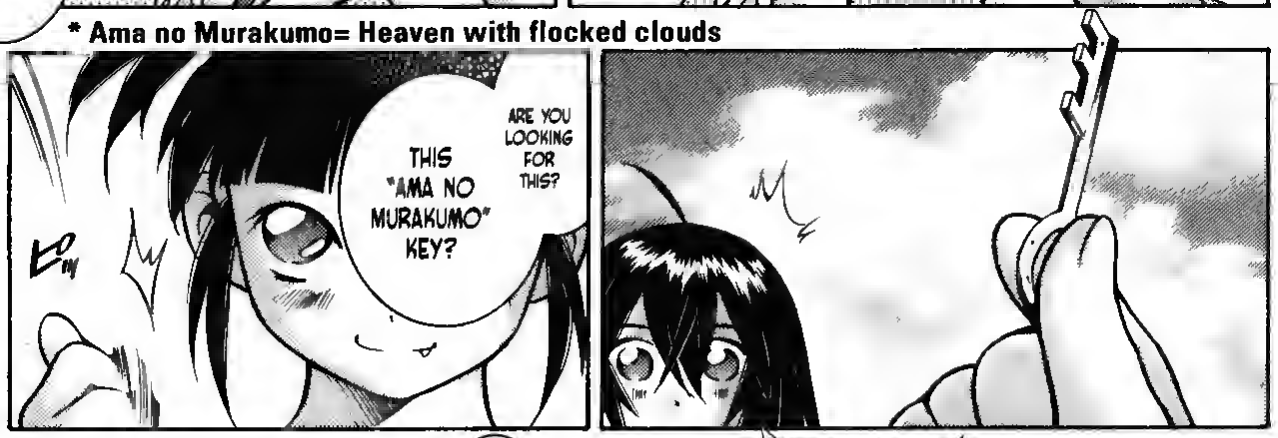
-CONTENTS-

ROUND 1

MY NAME IS KOUMOKU. I AM ONE OF THE ELITE FOUR.
* Name tag= Koumoku
NOW...
...LET US BEGIN.
YOU'RE KOUMOKU...?
YOU'RE THE SECOND OF THE ELITE FOUR?
DIDN'T I JUST SAY THAT?

WHERE'S YOUR MOMMY AND DADDY?
WHAT'S WRONG, LITTLE GIRL? DID YOU GET LOST CAMPING OR SOMETHING?
LOOK AT YOU! YOU'RE AS FLAT AS A WASHBOARD!
ALL RIGHT, KID, JOKE'S OVER.
WHAT...?! WHY ARE YOU UNDRESSING...?
HOW COULD A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU BE ONE OF THE ELITE FOUR?!
I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, ESPECIALLY IN THAT SWIMSUIT!
Y--
YOU'RE KIDDING ME!
YOU MAY LAUGH NOW, BUT YOU WILL FIND MY SKILLS TO BE NO LAUGHING MATTER.

* Ama no Murakumo= Heaven with flocked clouds



WH... UM...
VICTORY IS YOURS, IF YOU CAN FIND IT.
YOUR TASK IS TO RETRIEVE THE KEY.
GAAAH!
WHAT?!
I READ THAT THE RIVER HERE IS OVER 50 METERS DEEP..
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO STAND THERE? EVERY MOMENT YOU WAIT, THE KEY SINKS DEEPER...

IT'S GETTING DEEPER AND DEEPER!
DAMN!
GASP!!
I FORGOT... I CAN'T SWIM!!

HONESTLY, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE IT EVEN THIS FAR.
YOU'RE A REAL DISAPPOINT-MENT...
HMPH!
HOW DID SHE GET THE KEY FROM SO DEEP?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
EVEN THE TRANNY THAT CROSSED BEFORE YOU...
...WAS A WORTHIER OPPONENT THAN YOU!
DAMMIT!
UGH...
WHAT'S WRONG?
AREN'T YOU GOING?
IF YOU WON'T PLAY, YOU FORFEIT.
THERE IT GOES!
FETCH, LITTLE DOGGIE!
SUCH A WASTE!
YOU WON'T GET THE "AMA NO MURAKUMO."
AND BECAUSE YOU GAVE UP.
GRR...

TAKI...
DIDN'T YOU GIVE UP ON THIS CHALLENGE TWO YEARS AGO?
YES. I LOST TO THAT LITTLE GIRL IN HER UNATTRACTIVE SWIMSUIT.
HMPH...
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? KOUMOKU SWIMS AND BREATHES LIKE A FISH...AND THE RIVER IS ABOUT TO FLOOD DUE TO MELTING SNOW...
NO NORMAL INDIVIDUAL CAN OUT-DO THAT GIRL.
ACTUALLY, TWO YEARS AGO...
...I HAD NO IDEA THAT DIVING AND WRESTLING HAD ANYTHING TO DO WITH EACH OTHER.
CONTROLLING ONE'S BREATHING...
...IS THE KEY.
I WONDER, WILL TAMAKO FIGURE IT OUT?

PARDON MY ASKING, SENSEI...
...BUT HAVEN'T WE BEEN PEEING AN UNNATURALLY LONG TIME?
IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
WE HAVE A LOT OF EXPOSITION TO DISCLOSE SO THE READERS UNDERSTAND THE CHALLENGE TAMAKO FACES.
KEEYAAA!
SHIT!
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO FIND A KEY AMONG ALL THIS?
THE KEY..
WHERE THE HELL IS THE KEY?!

HEY!
!!
GURGLE...
DAAAAMN!
I CAN'T BREATHE...
NO... I CAN'T.

HEH
HEH.
ヒｈ
ヒｈ

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE GREAT KANEDA TAMAKO'S CHALLENGE ENDS HERE...
I CANNOT BELIEVE IT...
.....
.....
HMPH!
ANOTHER DISAPPOINT-MENT!
.....
I THINK...
BUT...
...I THINK SHE DID FAIRLY WELL...
WELL, HER OPPONENT ISN'T SOMEONE YOU MESS AROUND WITH, I SUPPOSE.
ズズズ
I THINK...

OH... OH?
KONGOA-SAN...?
WAKE UP, GIRL!
DAMN....
THIS IS BAD...
AND WHAT YOU DID, TOO...
THE SNOW'S STARTING TO MELT.
LET'S GET GOING. FORGET ABOUT THE KEY.
IN A LITTLE WHILE, THIS PLACE IS GOING TO FLOOD OVER...
...AND THE FLOOD WATERS WILL SURGE FOR THE NEXT SIX MONTHS.
WHAT?
BUT I'M NOT DONE WITH MY FIGHT...
DON'T BE STUPID..
YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE FROM THE START.
DAMN.
TIME'S UP.

HOW CAN A MERE HUMAN LIKE YOU WIN AGAINST A FISH?
.....
F-FISH?
OH, THAT'S RIGHT....
YOU'VE NEVER HEARD THE STORY BEFORE.
THERE'S A REASON KOUMOKU LIVES IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
YOU SEE...
...AND AN EXPLANATION TO HOW SHE CAN SWIM AND BREATHE LIKE A FISH.

HA HA HA HA!
ははは
.....
FATHER
THERE'S SOMETHING I'VE WANTED TO ASK YOU FOR A LONG TIME...
HM? WHAT IS IT?
YOU WISH TO KNOW ABOUT THIS KOUMOKUFU AXE?!
THIS HERE AXE HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN THROUGH GENERATIONS OF THE KOUMOKUTEN FAMILY, TO PROTECT THE "AMA NO MURAKUMO."
IT WEIGHS ALMOST 200 POUNDS!
I WANNA KNOW...
WHY ARE YOU ALWAYS FULL FRONTAL?
NO.... I'M NOT ASKING ABOUT THAT...
OHHH?!

.....
THAT QUESTION WILL BE ANSWERED AS SOON AS YOU HAVE THE STRENGTH TO LIFT THIS AXE ON YOUR OWN!!
HA HA HA HA!
JUST LIKE THE STRENGTH OF THAT RAPID RIVER!
THAT MAKES ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE
.....
HA HA HA!!
IS HE TALKING IN HIS SLEEP?!

UNGH....
HEAVE...
I CAN LIFT HIS SILLY AXE...
HEH HEH...
はぁ
はぁ
AH!
...HO...!
I DID IT!
WHOA...
...SHIT!!

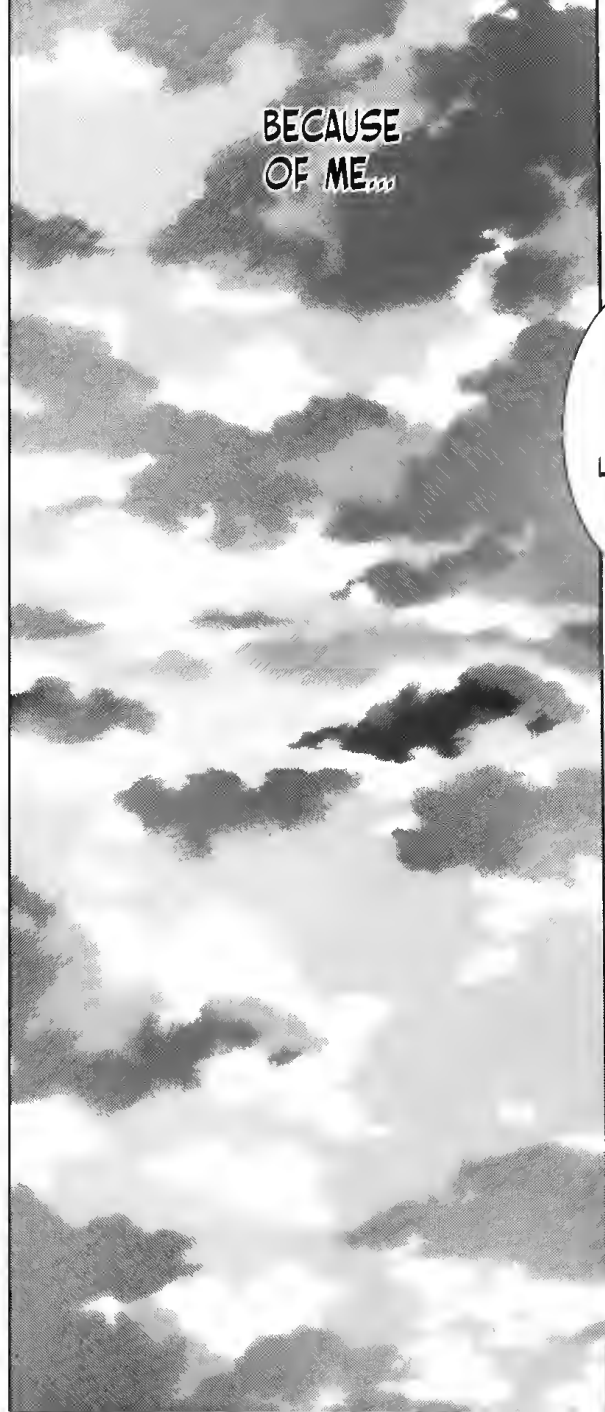
FATHER...
F-
FATHER!

HA HA HA HA!
BUT...
...THAT WOULD BE KOUMOKU'S FATHER'S LAST LAUGH...
AFTER HER FATHER LIFTED HER ABOVE THE WATER, HE RETURNED TO THE RIVER TO TRY TO RETRIEVE THE AXE...
...BUT HE NEVER RESURFACED.
FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS...
...KOUMOKU WAS HAUNTED BY HER GUILT.
SO STRONG WAS HER RESOLVE TO RETRIEVE HER FATHER'S AXE...OR RATHER, TO FIND HER FATHER'S SPIRIT...
...SHE BECAME LIKE A FISH.
HEY...
K-KOUMOKU...
YOU... BASTARD...

JERK!
KOUHOU
YOU TALK TOO MUCH!!
AND YOU, JUST STANDING THERE, LISTENING TO THIS ONE GOSSIP LIKE AN OLD WOMAN! GET OUT OF HERE!
THIS PLACE IS GOING TO BE UNDERWATER SOON...
I'M SO SORRY ABOUT YOUR FATHER...IT MUST HAVE BEEN SO HARD FOR YOU...
STOP, YOU'RE SUFFOCATING ME--!
I KNOW THAT FEELING.... I REALLY DO!
KOU-CHAN....
AND WHY THE HELL ARE YOU CALLING ME KOU-CHAN?! WE'RE NOT FRIENDS!

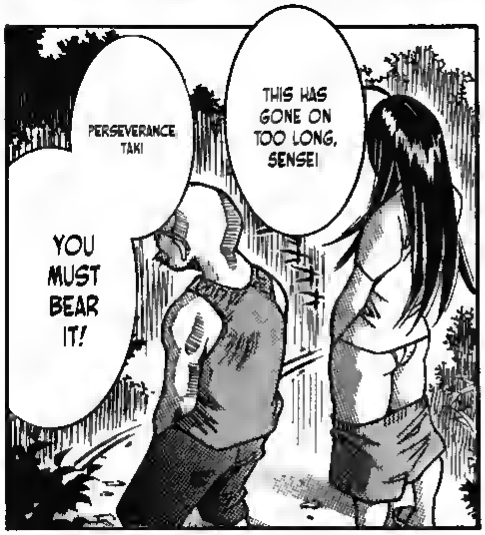
I ONLY GLANCED AT IT...AND I'M NOT SURE IF IT'S THE SAME .
UH... MAYBE...
ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU SAW KOUMOKUFU?
WHERE DID YOU SEE IT?!
WHAT?!
HEY...
WAIT A MINUTE ..?
Twitch
?
WAS THAT WHAT I SAW ON THE RIVER BOTTOM...?
THAT AXE...
IN A FEW MINUTES THESE WATERS WILL BE FAR TOO ROUGH FOR YOU TO DIVE IN!
DON'T BE FOOLISH!
H-HEY... KOUMOKU!
ZIP
ARE YOU GOING TO GO DOWN THERE TOO?!
WAITA-MINUTE!
EXHALE ...
INHALE ...
I HAVE TO.
YOU'RE A TERRIBLE SWIMMER! IT'S SUICIDE!
B-BUT...
I NEED TO GUIDE HER TO IT.
I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS WHERE THE AXE IS.

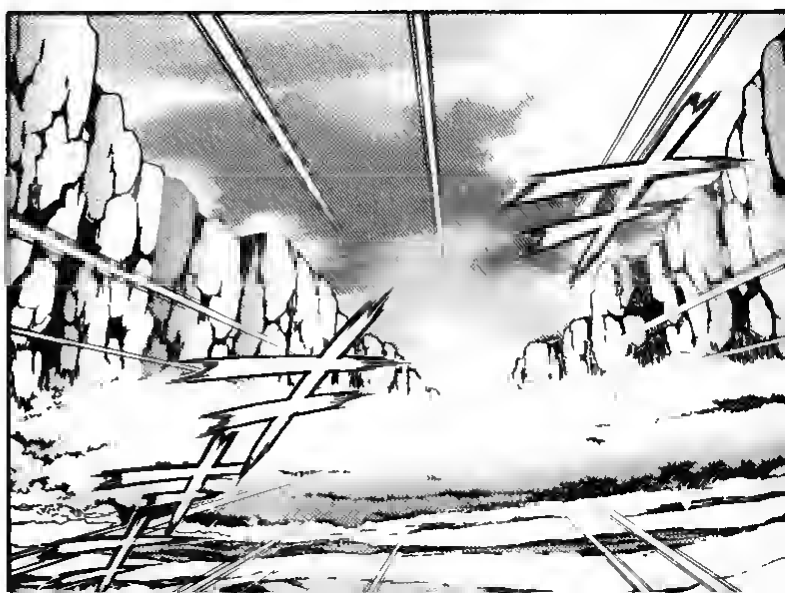
...MAMA DIED...
.....
WA-
WAIT!
KEEYAA!


BECAUSE OF ME...

I UNDERSTAND HOW SHE FEELS.
BECAUSE I'M JUST LIKE HER...

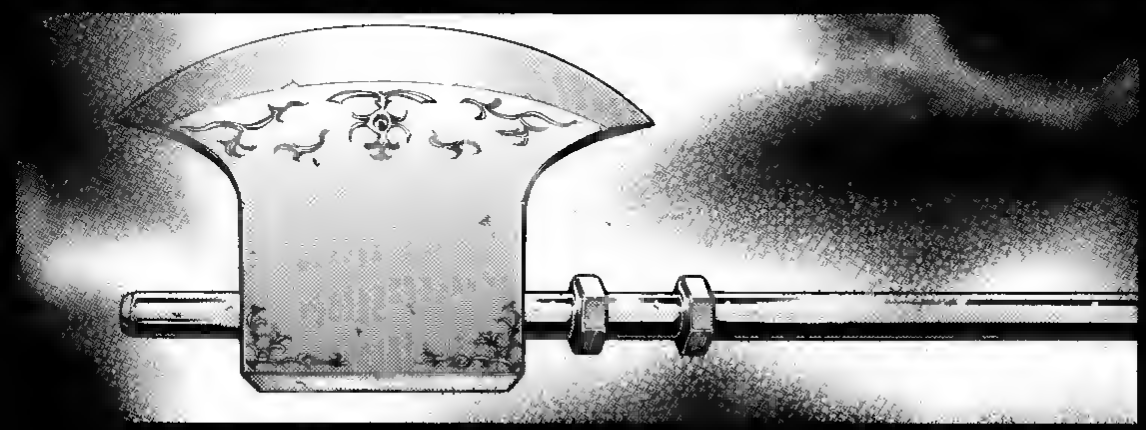
WHAT...?


PERSEVERANCE, TAKI
YOU MUST BEAR IT!
THIS HAS GONE ON TOO LONG, SENSEI



ROUND 1/FIN

ROUND 2



IT'S STRAIGHT DOWN FROM HERE!
KOU-CHAN!
AND STOP CALLING ME "KOU-CHAN!!"
I GOT IT! NOW GO BACK UP!
I CAN'T...
HMPH!
WHAT AN IDIOT!
GURGLE
BUT FOR A LITTLE GIRL LIKE YOU TO TRY TO BRING UP THAT HEAVY AXE ALL BY YOURSELF--
BLUB!
!!

TH-THIS IS IT!
THIS IS FATHER'S "KOUMOKUFU" AXE!
THERE IT IS!
HAAAA!
FATHER...
UNGH!
IT'S EVEN MORE HEAVY UNDER-WATER...
AH!

SH...
SHIT!
NGH... THIS IS BAD!
WITH ALL THIS WATER PRESSURE, MY LUNGS ARE...

ズズズ
I TOLD YOU SO!
I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WEREN'T GOING TO BE MUCH HELP!
WE SHOULD GO... NOW!
THE FLOODWATER IS COMING NEAR!
LET'S GO!
WHAT? BUT...
KOU-CHAN IS STILL UNDER THERE!
WE NEED TO HELP HER!
FOOL. DON'T GO THROWING AWAY YOUR LIFE! WHAT GOOD WOULD YOU DO, ANYWAY?
YOU CAN BARELY SWIM! AN EXPERIENCED DIVER WOULD HAVE TROUBLE GETTING TO THE BOTTOM NOW!

I DOUBT EVEN KOUMOKU WILL BE ABLE TO SURVIVE.
SUCH A SHAME...
HM...
F-
FATHER!

BUT YOUR AXE...
YOUR TREASURED AXE...
HA HA
B- BUT...
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT OLD THING!
HA HA HA HA!
F-
FATHER!
MAYBE I'LL GO SEARCH FOR IT ANYWAY. HA HA!
BUT
HAHAHA!
...BECAUSE HE SAVED ME...
HE WASN'T GOING BACK TO GO LOOK FOR IT. FATHER HAD ALREADY DRAINED ALL OF HIS STRENGTH...
FATHER!

UNGH... MY LAST BREATH...
IT'S... OVER... FOR ME...
HE WOULDN'T HAVE DIED IF HE HAD DONE THAT...
...INSTEAD OF GOING AFTER HIS BELOVED AXE?
WHY DID FATHER SAVE ME...
FATHER...
N- NO...
IT'S NOT HIM!
FATHER...?!
FA...

TAMAKO!?!
KKKK
KOKO

...GOING TO GO HOME!
WE'RE...
AT YOUR SERVICE!
WH- WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING DOWN HERE?!
HNGH!
HYAH!
YOU JUST CAN'T LIFT IT!
TAAH!
Silence...
HUH?
HAAAA!
...IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT.
THE ENVIRONMENT BETWEEN LAND AND WATER...

...BREATHING, WHICH IS ESSENTIAL FOR ANY MARTIAL ARTS, IS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE.
...THERE IS MUCH WATER PRESSURE.
ON TOP OF THAT...
THAT'S RIGHT.
ONE CANNOT PUT AS MUCH STRENGTH INTO ONESELF BECAUSE OF FLOTATION.
AND AT THAT DEPTH...
SO... DOES THAT MEAN TAMAKO IS...?
HM...
I... I CAN'T BREATHE...
HMPH! I TOLD YOU SO!
WHY WOULD YOU EVER DO SOMETHING STUPID LIKE THIS?
JUST GO BACK UP! IF YOU WAIT LONGER, YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE AIR AND YOU'LL FAINT!
B- BUT... BUT...
SHIT... EVERYTHING'S BECOMING... WHITE. BLURRY...

HAAA!
IDIOT!
THIS IS THE KEY TO "AMA NO MURA-KUMO"...
ISN'T THIS WHAT YOU WERE AFTER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
JUST TAKE IT AND HURRY TO THE SURFACE!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT!!
KOU-CHAN, YOU'RE AN IDIOT!
FA...
FATHER ...?!
HAHAHA!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT OLD THING!
AAHHHHH
WHAT?!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING?!

...THAT TAMAKO HAS AN UNCANNY INNER-STRENGTH WHEN SHE'S PLACED ON THE SPOT?
TAKI...
...DID YOU KNOW...

.....
WHOA, NOW...
EASY... EASY...
DAM-MIT...
SO THE TWO DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT...
IT'S... COMING...!
SHIT!
HEY!
WE'RE GOING BACK UP!
HEY, WAKE UP!
UNGH...
ALL RIGHT...
SHIT...
SHE'S COMPLETELY OUT!

I KIND OF UNDERSTAND...
...WHY FATHER DID WHAT HE DID...
GOOD-BYE...
AND...
MICROMICOS

I CAN'T...
I GUESS I CAN'T CARRY BOTH AT THE SAME TIME...
DAMN... THE WATER CURRENT...
THIS IS NOT GOOD... WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME...

GOOD-
BYE...
...FATHER...

TAMAKO...
...WINS!
WHAT?
SHE HAS SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED THE SECOND OF THE ELITE FOUR.
SO...SO DOES THAT MEAN AFTER THREE CHAPTERS, WE CAN *FINALLY* STOP PEEING?
YES... IT IS OVER.
YOU'VE ENDURED WELL, TAKI.
HM! WELL DONE!
TH-THANKS, I GUESS.
SENSEI!
UM, WHAT...?

HUH...?
WHA? WHERE AM I?
Y-YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE...
YOU WERE SAVED BY KOUMOKU...
SHE PULLED YOU TO SAFETY.
SHE... SHE DID?!
THIS WAS LEFT FOR YOU.
A PRESENT FROM KOUMOKU.
SHE CHOSE SAVING YOU OVER RETRIEVING THE KOUMOKUFU AXE.
K-KOU-CHAN...!!
!!
WHERE IS KOU-CHAN?!
SHE HAS MOVED ON, I'M AFRAID.
WHAT?!

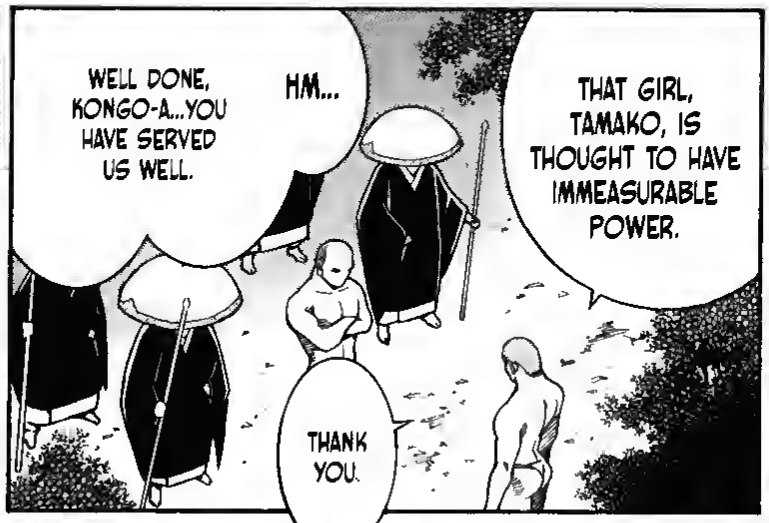
I HAVE BEEN DEFEATED...
WHA...?
BUT THIS GIRL WAS NOT ABLE TO RETRIEVE THE KEY!
KONGO-A..
WHAT?
YOU STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN!!
YOU WIN AT BATTLES...
...YET YOU LOSE BY "LOVING SPIRIT"
I THINK...
...JIKOKU THOUGHT THE SAME WAY WHEN HE FOUGHT THAT GIRL.
HUH?

...BIGGER THAN ANY MOTHER'S...
THAT GIRL'S... TAMAKO'S LOVING SPIRIT WAS...
KOUMOKU! WHAT THE HELL...?!
I DON'T NEED A SCHOOL SWIMSUIT ANYMORE
NOW LET'S SEE...
HEY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
I'M GOING TO GO TRAIN.

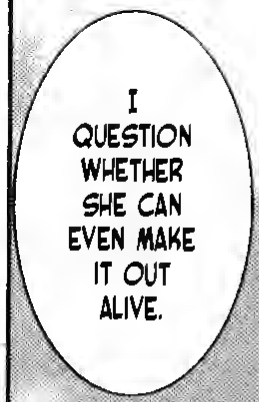
TELL TAMAKO...
...WHEN NEXT WE MEET, IT WILL BE AT A WRESTLING MATCH.
KOU-CHAN...
THERE'S NO TIME FOR YOU TO INDULGE YOUR FEELINGS, TAMAKO...
NOW GO.
I THINK YOUR FRIENDS ARE DUKING IT OUT WITH THE REST OF THE ELITE FOUR.
YOU MEAN, MOKICHI-KUN...
HE'S NOT GOING TO BE BESTED ~SO EASILY!~
HMPH!
HE'S LIKELY DEAD BY NOW...
I...I MEAN...
...MOKICHI-KUN HAS IMPROVED A LOT!
AND HE HAS LOTS OF "LOVING SPIRIT!"
SO I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN HIM...
TH-THAT CAN'T BE!

*Headband: Beat Evil

I SEE.
SO KOUMOKU WAS ALSO DEFEATED.


WELL DONE, KONGO-A...YOU HAVE SERVED US WELL.
HM...
THAT GIRL, TAMAKO, IS THOUGHT TO HAVE IMMEASURABLE POWER.
THANK YOU.

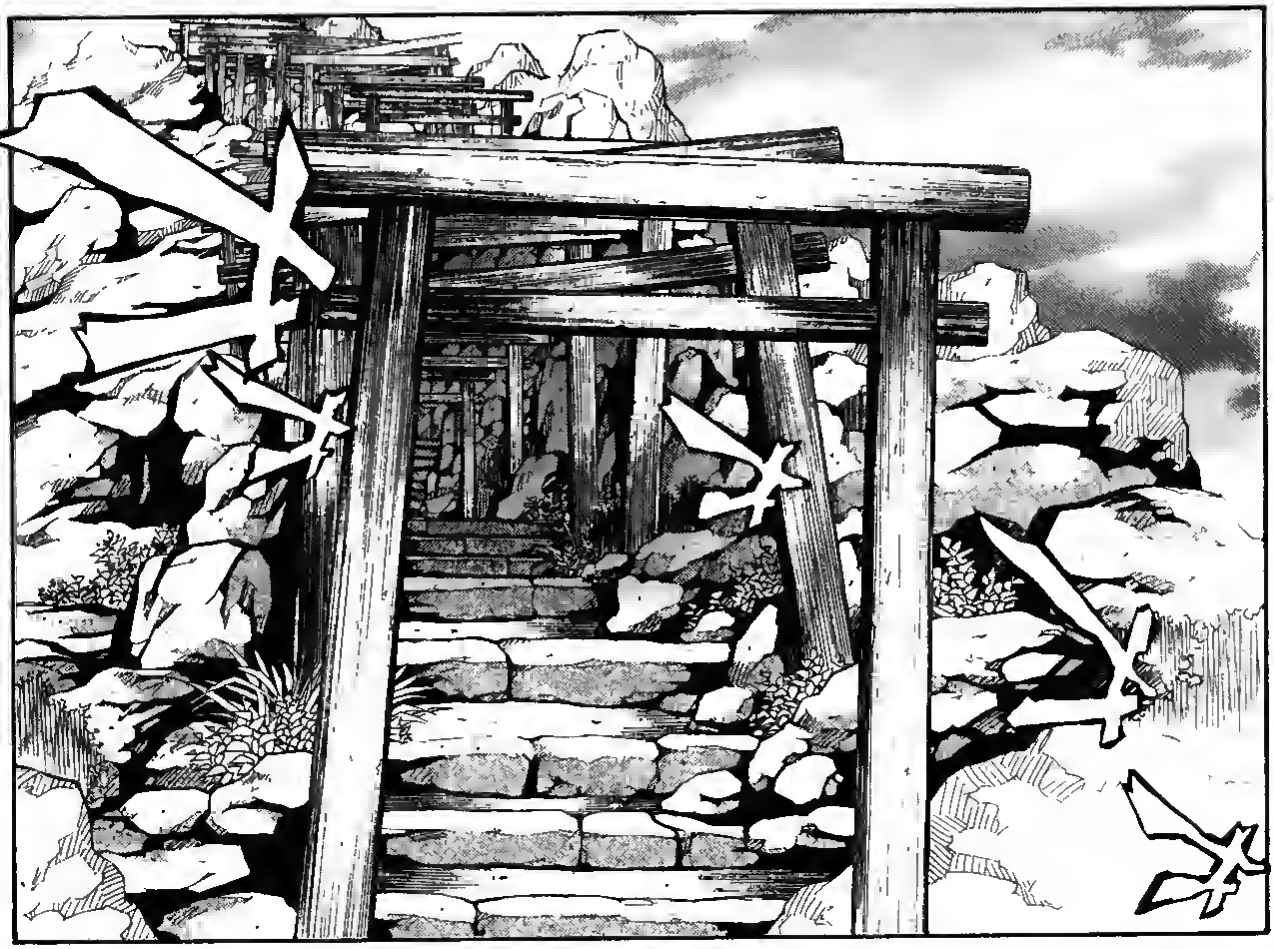
YES...

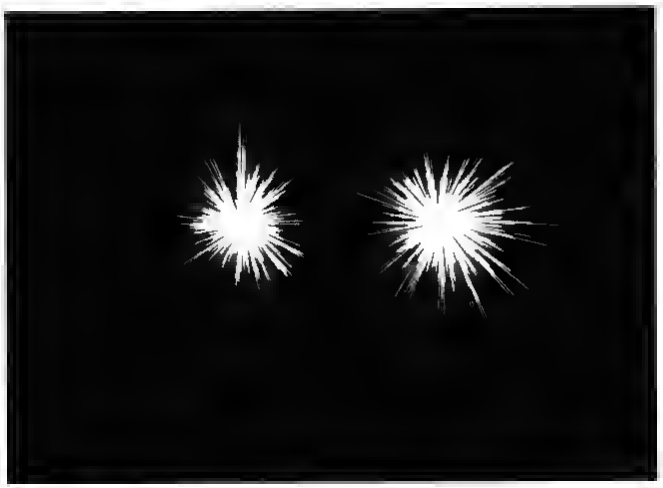

I QUESTION WHETHER SHE CAN EVEN MAKE IT OUT ALIVE.

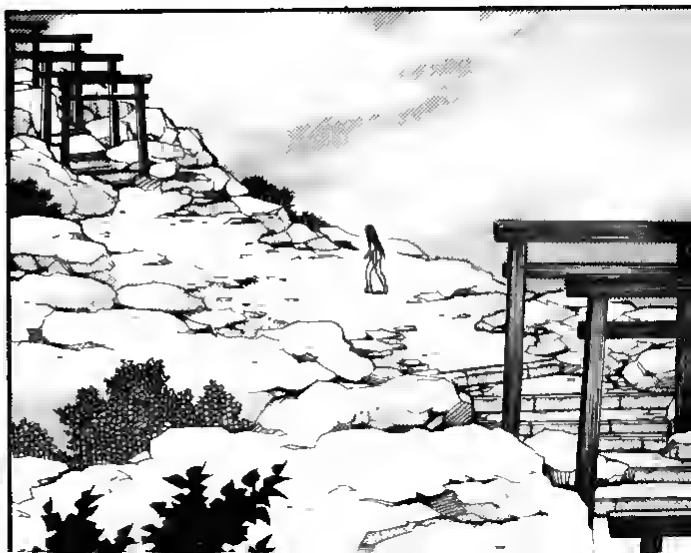
ROUND 3

BUT...
.....

HER NEXT OPPONENT IS A MONSTER...EVEN KOUMOKU AND I ARE LIKE INFANTS AGAINST HIM...
...THAT GIRL'S WINNING STREAK STOPS AFTER THIS.







MOKICHI-KUN?!
AH?!
ARE YOU OKAY, MOKICHI-KUN?
WAKE UP!
R-RUN...
TAMA... CHAN...
WHAT?
...H-HURRY...

THE ELITE FOUR...
ZOUCHOU!

GIVE IT BACK...
HYAAAA!
THE KEY TO THE HOLY SHRINE. THE "AMA NO MURAKUMO."
A...
...TENGU?
!!
SH-SHIT!
OWWW!

!!
SHI... SHIBA-CHIN?!
SO IT WAS TRUE...
...WHAT TONDEMON SAID ABOUT SLAYING SOME SORT OF DEMON!!

WHAT?
GO! TAMAKO, NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
I'LL HANDLE THIS GUY!
I HAVE TO PAY YOU BACK FOR SAVING MY LIFE...
AFTER THIS, WE'LL CALL IT EVEN!
B-BUT...
HYAAA!!

HM?
AH?
B-BUT...
D-DON'T COME NEAR ME!!
SHIBA-CHIN, ARE YOU OKAY?! WHAT'S WRONG?!
I...I SAW TAMAKO'S NIPPLES...
ドゴッ!!
NUO?!
I WILL DEFINITELY BRING BACK THE "AMA NO MURAKUMO."
HEY!
WHAT? BUT...
HURRY UP TAMAKO! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!
IDIOT! ARE YOU GOING TO PUT MOKICHI'S "LOVING SPIRIT" TO WASTE?!
OWWWW..
UNGH.. MOVE!
IS IT REALLY "LOVING SPIRIT"?

YOUR OPPONENT...
...IS ME!
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE!
SEI!
SEI!
YAH!
UNG...
WHAT AN INCREDIBLE RUSH...

10 MIN
Y-YES!
HER SUPER-MOVE, "SUNDA!"
HA!
W-WHAT?
?!
THEN HOW 'BOUT THIS?
KA... ME... HA... ME...
HUH?
SHIT, THIS IS BAD. SHE'S DOING IT SO CLOSE...
WHOA!
UGH!

HO!
!!

I CAN'T BELIEVE MY KAMEHAMEHO DIDN'T WORK...
TH-THIS CAN'T BE...
HM...
THAT WAS MY FAVORITE SHIRT!
退散
A HIGH-SPEED TACKLE?!
BUT THAT'S A WRESTLING MOVE!
UG... ERR...

STAND DOWN.
IF YOU DON'T, I'LL MAKE YOU SUFFER FOR IT.
WHO...
...THE HELL WOULD...?
VERY WELL THEN...
FAINT.

HOW MUCH LONGER ARE YOU GOING TO HIDE OUT THERE?
COME ON OUT!
...WAS DEFEATED SO EASILY?
THE ALL-MIGHTY SHIBA...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
SHIBA!
V-VICE CAPTAIN?!

I'M FINALLY AT THE TOP!
I DID IT!
Y-YES!
はぁ はぁ

WHAT'S THE MATTER? AREN'T YOU GOING TO FIGHT ME?
YOU'VE BEEN IN THAT POSITION FOR A LONG TIME.
NO... THAT'S NOT IT...
WATCHING YOUR FRIENDS FALL BEFORE ME PUT THE WOBBLE IN YOUR KNEES, EH?
AFRAID OF ME, YES?

...FIGHTING...
SHE'S AFRAID OF...
THIS GUY IS DEFINITELY BAD NEWS FOR US.
THIS GUY REALLY IS GOOD... ALL HIS MOVES, ALL HIS ATTACKS...
...THAT'S NOT WHY VICE CAPTAIN IS AFRAID.
BUT...
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE YOUR MOVE?
VERY WELL. I'LL MAKE THIS QUICK.

FILA
V-VICE CAPTAIN?!
HMPH...
JUST AS I THOUGHT.
THIS WAS A WASTE OF TIME.
BUT IN A WAY...
...SHE MADE A WISE CHOICE.
BEST NOT TO DIE HERE TODAY...
NOW... ABOUT THAT TAMAKO GIRL...
...IRL... IRL...

AH... AH...?
...IRL...?
LET GO!
YOU LITTLE BASTARD!
OWWW!
WHAT?!
I'M NOT GONNA LET YOU LAY EVEN ONE FINGER ON MY TAMA-CHAN!
YOU...
YOU...
WHAT?!
...IMBECILE!

I CAN'T HIT WITH ENOUGH STRENGTH WITH HIM SO CLOSE...
THIS LITTLE BRAT!
LET GO, YOU BASTARD!
LET GO!
ARRRGH!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
恐霊退散
OUR OLD GEEZER ONCE TOLD US...
WHAT?!
HEH... HEH...
I CAN TAKE...
...WHATEVER YOU DISH OUT!
YOU...!
YOU REALLY HAVE A DEATH WISH, DON'T YOU, BOY?!
IS THIS HIS "LOVING SPIRIT"?
...WOUNDS FROM BATTLE...

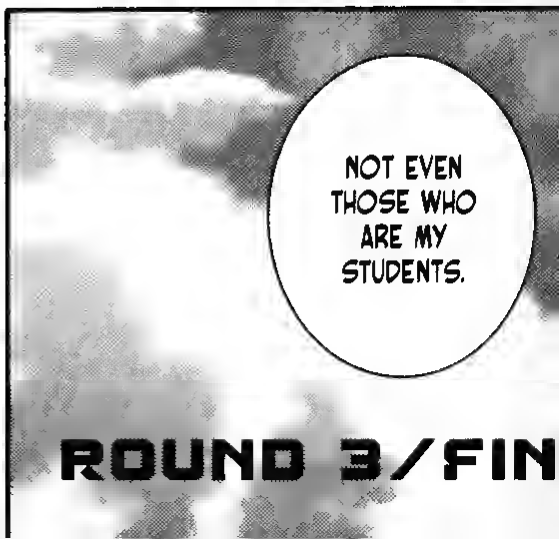
...ARE BEST HEALED THROUGH BATTLE!
WHAT?!
THAT DOESN'T EVEN MAKE SENSE!
GA!
NUARAGH!
NOTHING IN THIS MANGA MAKES SENSE!
WHAT DO YOU WANT, COWARD?
WHAT?
.....
I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL YOU...

A WOUND IN HERE...
...THAT I DEFINITELY NEED TO HEAL.
THERE'S THIS WOUND...
YES.
SO YOU'VE DECIDED TO FIGHT ME NOW, HAVE YOU?
OH, REALLY..?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF SICK PLAN YOU HAD IN MIND.

BUT I KNOW I NEED TO KICK YOUR ASS...
...OR I WON'T BE HAPPY...
...SENSEI!
WHAT?!
HA...!
SO YOU KNEW...
UH...IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS

BIGGER GATE HIGASHI.
I ALSO GO BY THE NAME OF ZOUCHOUTEN OF THE ELITE FOUR.
ANYBODY WHO STEPS ONTO THIS MOUNTAIN...
...NO MATTER WHO IT IS, WILL BE GIVEN NO QUARTER.
OLD... GEEZER?
WHAT?!

OH MAN, VICE CAPTAIN'S GOING TO BE MAD!
I...I THINK I DROPPED THE KEY...
MORE LIKE, SHE'S GOING TO KILL ME!


NOT EVEN THOSE WHO ARE MY STUDENTS.
ROUND 3/FIN

ROUND 4

WHAT'S WRONG, HIGUCHI? FOR SOMEONE FUELED BY RAGE, YOU'RE PRETTY WEAK.
YOU'VE BEEN THROWN 20 TIMES ALREADY.
W-WHY, SENSEI?
HYA!
WHY ARE YOU PUTTING YOUR OWN STUDENTS...

DOESN'T THIS BRING BACK MEMORIES?
.....
IT'S NO USE...
SHE'S COMPLETELY AT A DISADVANTAGE BECAUSE OF HER FEAR.
退散
.....
HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN...
SINCE WE BATTLED AGAINST EACH OTHER LIKE THIS?
ゴゴゴ
OH...
...DON'T TELL ME YOU'VE FORGOTTEN?
IT

DO YOU REMEMBER HOW OFTEN...
ゴロ
ゴロ
...YOU WOULD END UP LOOKING UP AT THE SKY AFTER YOU WERE THROWN...?
LET ME REFRESH YOUR MEMORY.
ハァ
ハァ
URAAARGH!

SHE'S STRONG AND CREEPY...
WHO THE HELL IS THAT BITCH?
ドゴ
WAIT!
HMPH. THEY'RE ALL WIMPS...
THE PRESIDENT OF THE EVER-POWERFUL KENDO CLUB HAS STEPPED UP!
YEAH! IT'S SAIONJI-SAN!
...IF YOU DISRUPT THE PEACE HERE AT SWAN ACADEMY!
I WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO PASS ME...
THAT BITCH IS DEAD!
GO, SAIONJI-SAN!

Click
NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS TO E-MAIL IT TO EVERY PERV...
SH-SHE'S STRONG AND TOTALLY MERCILESS!
OHHH, PLEASE STOP..
I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS...
FROM NOW ON, THIS SHITTY SWAN ACADEMY...
...WILL BE RUN BY ME, HIGUCHI ICHIYO!!
OKAY, OKAY.
MOVE ASIDE.

I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM JANITORS!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU, BOSSING ME AROUND?!
UNGH...
NN...
OH-UH...
YOU REALLY MESSED UP THE PLACE.
HERE.
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, GRAB A DUSTPAN!
UH... OKAY.
YOU WANNA STEP UP, GRANDPA? I'LL BREAK YOUR HIP, OLD MAN!
YOU LOOKIN' TO GO HEAVEN SO SOON?
HEAVEN, EH?
SO YOU'RE GOING TO SEND ME TO HEAVEN? THAT'S FUNNY..
BUT...
HUH?

...HEAVEN HURTS.
Infirmary
觀自在菩薩行深
般若波羅蜜多時
照見五蘊皆空度一切
苦厄舍利子色
是舍利子是諸法空
相不生不滅不垢不淨
不增不減是故空中無
色無受想行識無眼耳
鼻舌身意無色聲香味
觸法無眼界乃至
WHAAA!

AS A PUNISHMENT FOR YOU BREAKING NUMEROUS THINGS AROUND THE SCHOOL...
ANYWAY
...I WILL HAVE YOU JOIN THE WRESTLING CLUB.
HEY...
OLD MAN!
YOU LITTLE...
TAKE IT EASY.
OWWW!
UNGH!
YOU'LL NEED TO REST, AFTER THE THRASHING I PUT ON YOU.
WHAT?
AND WHO THE HELL WOULD EVER JOIN A STUPID WRESTLING CLUB?!
WHAT? WHICH IS IT?!
I WOULDN'T NOT CONSIDER YOU NOT QUITTING THE CLUB.
IF YOU CAN EVER PERFORM A MOVE ON ME, OR EARN A POINT FROM ME...
BUT DON'T WORRY...
THERE'S ONE CONDITION ...
YOU LOST TO ME.
IT'S NATURE'S LAW THAT THE LOSER BECOMES SUBMISSIVE TO THE VICTOR.

HEY!
THAT'S DIRTY POOL! I WAS UNCONSCIOUS!
I lost big-time to Sensei, so I will most enthusiastically join the wrestling club.
Higuchi Ichiyo
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
I MEAN... JOIN A WRESTLING CLUB? ME?!
...CHANGE YOUR MIND, THEN?
WILL THIS...
HEH.
THAT LITTLE PIECE OF PAPER ISN'T GOING TO MAKE ME...
...HMPH!

DAMN!
IT'S EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, TOO.
OH, REALLY?
THAT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT, YOU DIRTY OLD PRUNE!
YOU PERVERT!!
WARNING: This is all criminal
IF YOU DON'T WANT THIS SUPER-SEDUCTIVE PICTURE TO BE DISTRIBUTED AROUND THE SCHOOL...
FU FU FU ...
Hmmm, I can't believe it's pink...
WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE?
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU...
N-NOT YET...
I'VE WON.
WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT YOUR DEFEAT?
SEE?

HA HA HA ...
HA HA HA...
HA...
...BRINGING UP THE PAST LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE STUPID...
.....
...BUT I FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT.
...I HATE TO ADMIT IT...
YOU KNOW...
...IS STILL EFFECTIVE, RIGHT?
WHAT YOU SAID BACK THEN...
.....
TONDEMON SENSEI...

THAT'S RIGHT. BACK-IN-THE-DAY...
...I STILL LOVED TO FIGHT.
...NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I LOST...
TO MUKODA... NOT TO MYSELF.
...THAT I WAS ADMITTING DEFEAT.
BUT...
...I NEVER REALIZED...
EVEN WHEN I DID LOSE, I NEVER ONCE THOUGHT I LOST.

WH-
WHOA...
THIS IS TRULY A WRESTLING BATTLE!!
IT'S BEYOND SCARY.. BUT AWESOME AT THE SAME TIME..
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A BATTLE!
SHE'S SMILING...
V-VICE CAPTAIN..

HAAA!
THAT'S RIGHT...
THIS IS THE FEELING!
NOT GOOD ENOUGH!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH I GET THROWN...
AND NO MATTER HOW MUCH I GET HIT...
退散
A FAINT MOVE ?!
I CAN READ YOU LIKE A BOOK!
...AS LONG AS YOU DON'T CONSIDER YOURSELF DEFEATED...

...THE BATTLE IS NEVER OVER!
UWAAAA!
ANOTHER FAINT...?!
NUUU!

SHE DID IT!
SHE...
ALL RIGHT, FROM THERE, YOU JUST HAVE TO MAKE A GERMAN...
WAY TO GO, VICE CAPTAIN YOU GOT ONE POINT!
HUH?
YOU DID WELL, HIGUCHI.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS THAT DIE-HARD ATTITUDE...
THAT'S RIGHT...
...ALL RIGHT.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE...

YOU'VE SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED THE THIRD OF THE ELITE FOUR.
...A.K.A. "BATTLE CLUB."
SWAN ACADEMY'S WRESTLING CLUB...
...FINALLY MADE IT TO THE GOAL...
IT...IT LOOKS LIKE I...

WHAAAT?!

I THREW THAT AWAY YEARS AGO.
IDIOT!
SOOO, DO YOU STILL HAVE VICE CAPTAIN'S PICTURE?
.....
YOU STILL HAVE IT, DON'T YOU, PERVERT?
YEAH, RIGHT!

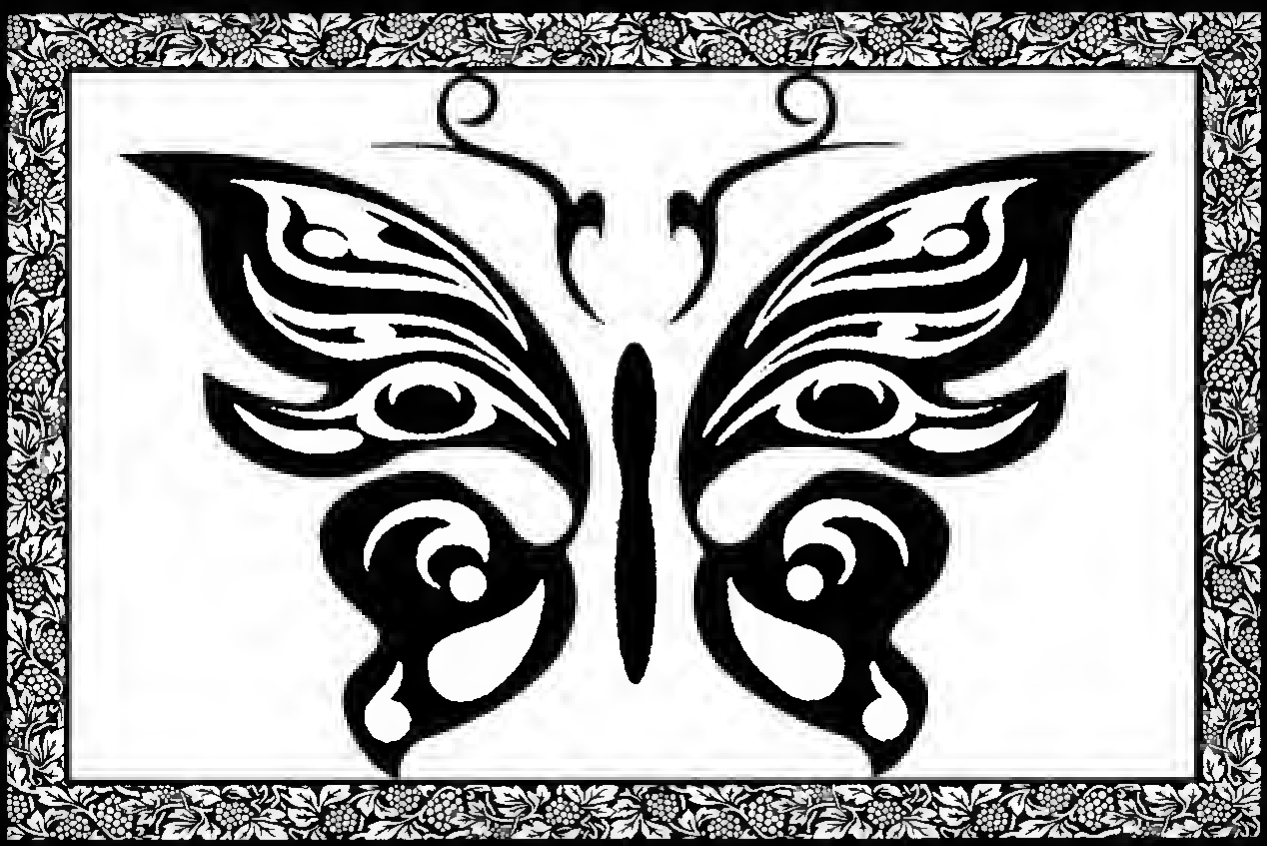
C-COULD THAT BE...
A... WRESTLING...
...RING?

ROUND 4/FIN

ROUND 5
A FAMOUS MOUNTAIN CLIMBER NAMED GEORGE MALLORY WAS ONCE ASKED WHY HE CLIMBED. HIS ANSWER: "BECAUSE IT'S THERE."
AND NOW...
...TAMAKO KANEDA...
...WAS CLIMBING *HER* MOUNTAIN.
SHE'S CLIMBING TO ACQUIRE THE "AMA NO MURAKUMO."
AND SHE'S ALSO CLIMBING FOR THE SAKE OF HER FRIENDS AT THE CLUB.

AND FOR...
...FAN SERVICE, OF COURSE!!
GO FOR IT, TAMAKO!
DON'T GIVE UP!
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS KINTAMA!
SHUT UP ALREADY. STUPID JERK.
WHEW! I'M TIRED.
HOW IN THE WORLD AM I GOING TO CLIMB DOWN...?
はぁ
はぁ
I... I THINK I MADE IT...
.....
HUH?

ROUND 5



IS THIS..A DREAM?
OW, IT HURTS...
IS... THAT....
...ME?
WHAT?
HUH?
UMMM, WHO ARE YOU?
OOOOH BOY... HAVE ALL MY HEAD INJURIES FINALLY CAUGHT UP TO ME?

OR IS SHE...
...THE FINAL OF THE ELITE FOUR?!
KI...
MY NECK...
SHIT.

KIAI!!
THAT WAS CLOSE...
H...
AND WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?!!
HEY!!! WHAT WAS THAT ALL ABOUT?!
WHAT'S YOUR GAME, SISTER?!

I REALLY HAVE LOST IT.
...YOU.
I AM... SIMPLY...
WHY ARE WE LEAVING WHEN WE CAME THIS FAR?!
WE NEED TO FOLLOW TAMA-CHAN AND SUPPORT HER!
HUH?!
WE HAVE TO BE THERE!
I BET SHE'S FIGHTING THE LAST ELITE RIGHT NOW!

WH-WHY NOT?!
WHAT DO YOU SEE, HIGUCHI?
HUH?
I DO NOTICE SOME SMOKE...
HUH?
YOU CAN'T.
ぬん
GYA!!!
TAMA-CHAN, I LOVE YOU!
WHAT THE...
YOU IDIOT! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
I LOVE YOU!!
AH...

WHOA!
COME HERE!!
W-WAITAMINUTE!
QUIT MESSING AROUND, YOU PERV!
WHAT?!
AND HOW'D HE GET SO STRONG...
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO HIM?!
NO!
AHHH!
STOP IT!!

STOP RIGHT THERE.
FU FU FU. IT SEEMS I WAS ABLE TO PRESERVE YOUR VIRGINITY IN THE NICK OF TIME.
HIGUCHI...
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST HELP ME OUT?!
AND...WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO MOKICHI?
IT'S THE GAS.
EVEN THOUGH MT. IBUKI IS A DORMANT VOLCANO, IT CONTINUES TO SPEW OUT POISONOUS GAS.
AND ONE OF THOSE GASES CONTAINS A HYPNOTIC AGENT, CALLED RQ-10.
ON THE SUMMIT, TAMAKO IS LIKELY IMMERSED IN THESE HALLUCINOGENS.
PEOPLE WHO INHALE THE GAS HAVE MASSIVE HALLUCINATIONS, AND THEIR INHIBITIONS ARE NEUTRALIZED.
THEIR DEEP DESIRES AND SUPPRESSED FEELINGS COME TO THE SURFACE.

SHE'S PROBABLY FIGHTING AN IMAGINARY ENEMY.
UM...
SO, TAMAKO IS...
IT'S THE MOST DEADLY ENEMY OF ALL.
...IS ONE'S OWN HEART.
THE FINAL ELITE FOUR, TAMON...
GUWAAAA!
KIAI!!
KI...
KI...KI...

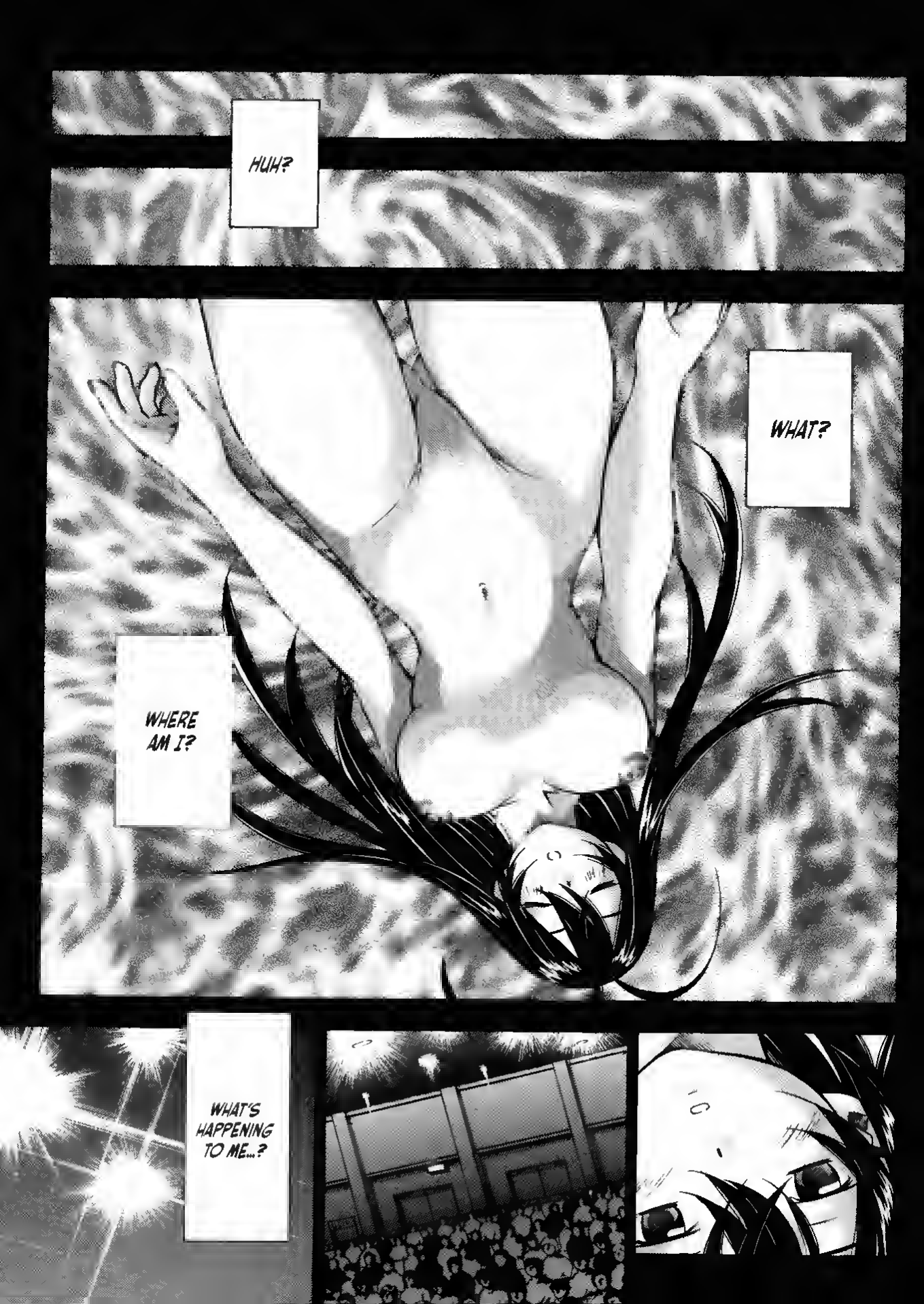
I CAN'T...
IT'S LIKE SHE CAN PREDICT ALL MY MOVES...
HA HA!
"KIAI," HUH? LOVING SPIRIT?
WHAT A HYPOCRITICAL WORD.
A HEART FILLED WITH BOTH WITH MERCY AND CHAOS.
SUCH A CONTRADIC-TION.
IF YOU'RE SO MERCIFUL, YOU SHOULDN'T FIGHT IN THE FIRST PLACE.
SO IN THE END, YOU USE "KIAI" AS AN EXCUSE...
...TO BEAT YOUR OPPONENTS AND LOOK DOWN UPON THEM. YOU FIND PLEASURE IN THAT.
NO...
NO, THAT'S NOT IT. I DON'T FIND PLEASURE IN IT AT ALL!
HMPH!
NOT EVEN A BIT? DON'T LIE TO YOURSELF.

AH!

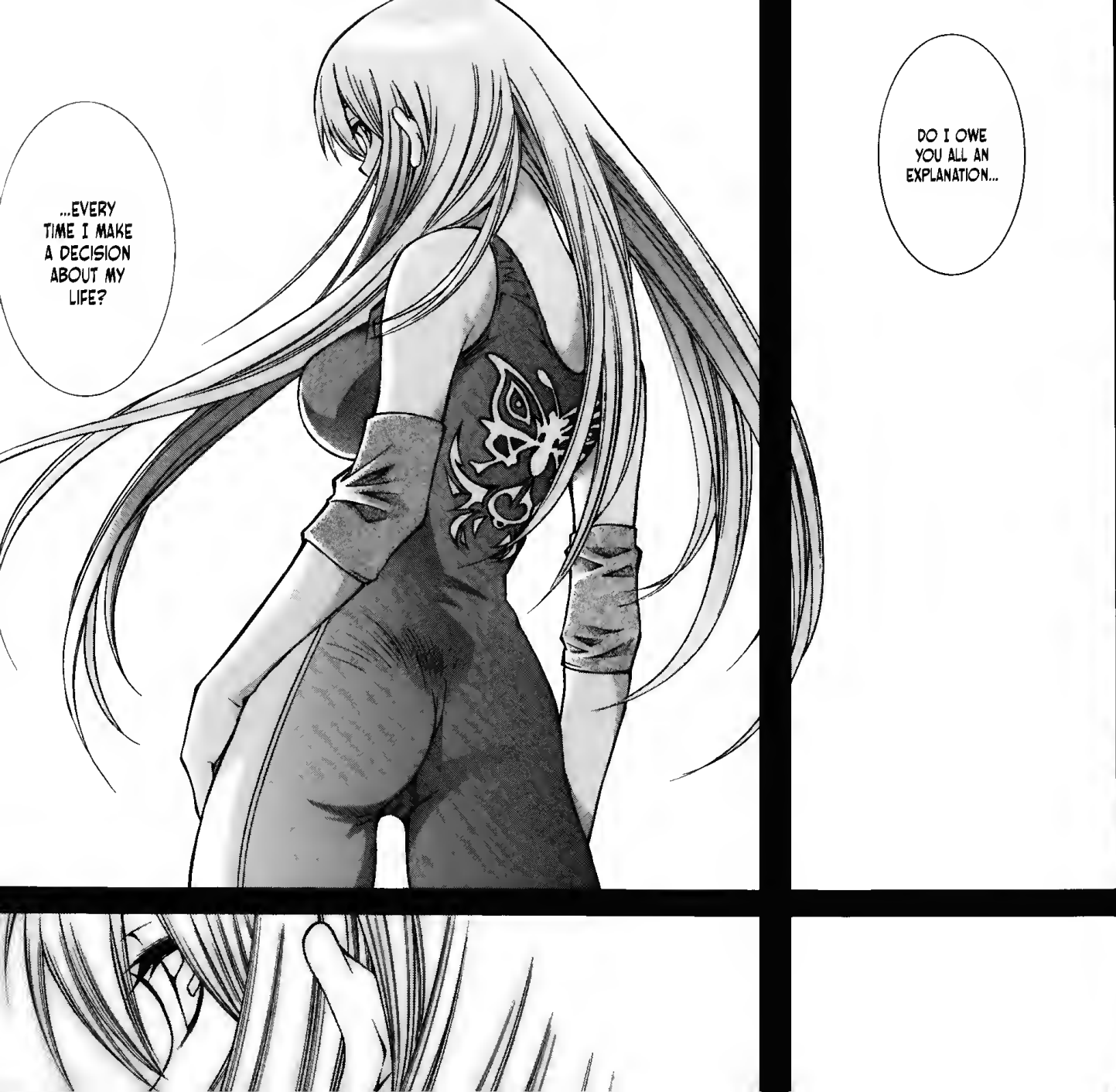
TAMAKO...
UNDERNEATH THAT MASK YOU WEAR...
...THAT ALOOF AND NAIVE FRONT...
HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF THOSE WHO LOST TO YOU IN BATTLE?
YOU HAVE THE SAME CRUEL NATURE ANY LIVING BEING. THE STRONG PREY UPON THE WEAK.
IT FLOWS THROUGH YOU!
THAT...
THAT'S NOT TRUE...
SO THEN...
WHAT?
...WHY DO YOU WRESTLE?

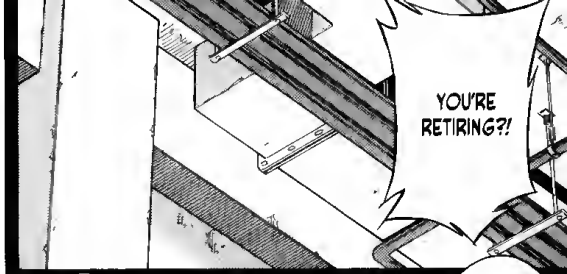
WHY DO YOU WANT TO GET STRONG?
WHAT PURPOSE IS THERE, OTHER THAN TO WIELD THAT POWER OVER OTHERS?
IT'S BECAUSE. I.
AND IF YOU DO NOT SEEK TO RULE, THEN WHAT IS YOUR LIFE'S PURPOSE?
DO YOU HAVE A REASON FOR LIVING?
YOUR MOTHER, TAMAMI, GAVE UP WRESTLING BECAUSE OF YOU...
SHE ABANDONED THE TITLE OF CHAMPION.
TAMAMI ...
ALL...
...BECAUSE OF YOU...
NO!
STOP IT!

...DIED.
YOU CAN BECOME STRONGER BY CONFRONTING YOURSELF.
PASTS BEST LEFT FORGOTTEN...
ONE'S OWN WEAKNESS...
I WONDER IF I CAN HANDLE IT...
WHAT NOW?!
TAKE THAT!
GIVEN UP YET, MUKOUDA?!
UNGGGGH!
THIS IS WHAT HIGUCHI SEES...
TAMAKO ....
YOUR REAL BATTLE BEGINS HERE.
WILL YOU BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT?


HUH?
WHAT?
WHERE AM I?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME...?

FALL!!
SHE'S STRONG! SO STRONG! THIS IS HER THIRD NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP WIN!
AND THIS IS HER 83RD CAREER WIN!
A TRUE HIGH SCHOOL WONDER-WOMAN, GINKAKUJI TAMAMI!!
MAMA...?!
MA...


...EVERY TIME I MAKE A DECISION ABOUT MY LIFE?
DO I OWE YOU ALL AN EXPLANATION...

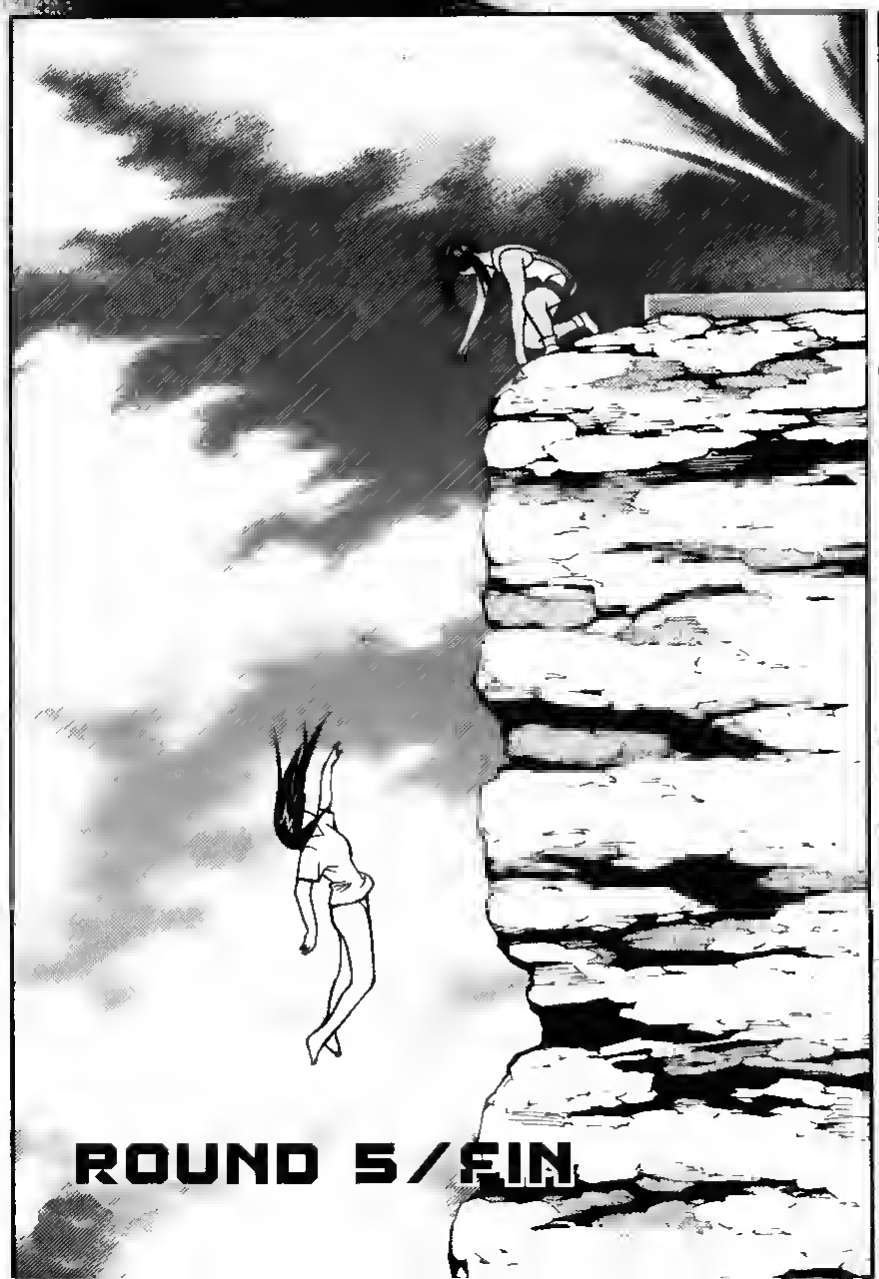

YOU'RE RETIRING?!

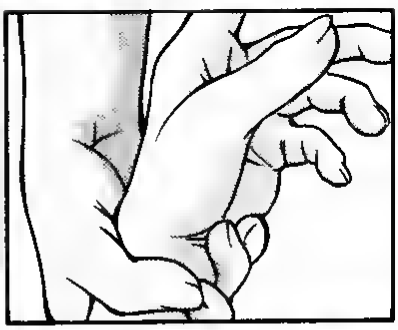
ARE YOU INJURED?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE RETIRING ONCE YOU GRADUATE...?
YOU CAN'T QUIT NOW!
YOU WON'T PURSUE YOUR FOURTH CONSECUTIVE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP?
TELL US WHY, TAMAMI-CHAN!

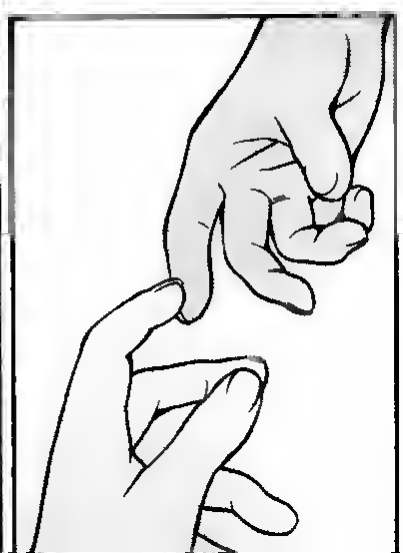
QUIT ACTING LIKE A PRINCESS...
HEY, WHY THE COLD SHOULDER?

SENSE!...
...I DO HAVE ONE REGRET.
WHAT'S THAT?
WHEN I GET MARRIED, AND CHANGE MY LAST NAME TO KANEDA...
.....
WELL...
I SUPPOSE IT WOULD BE UNFAIR TO LAY YOUR RESIGNATION ON YOUR UNBORN CHILD...
YOU STARTED QUITE A COMMOTION BACK THERE.
TONDEMON-SENSEI...
...MY NAME CAN BE ABBREVIATED TO GOLD-BALLS...
HAHAHAHA!

WHAT'S WRONG, TAMAMI...?!
UNGH... UHHHH.
UGH!!
TAMAMI!
TAMAMI!

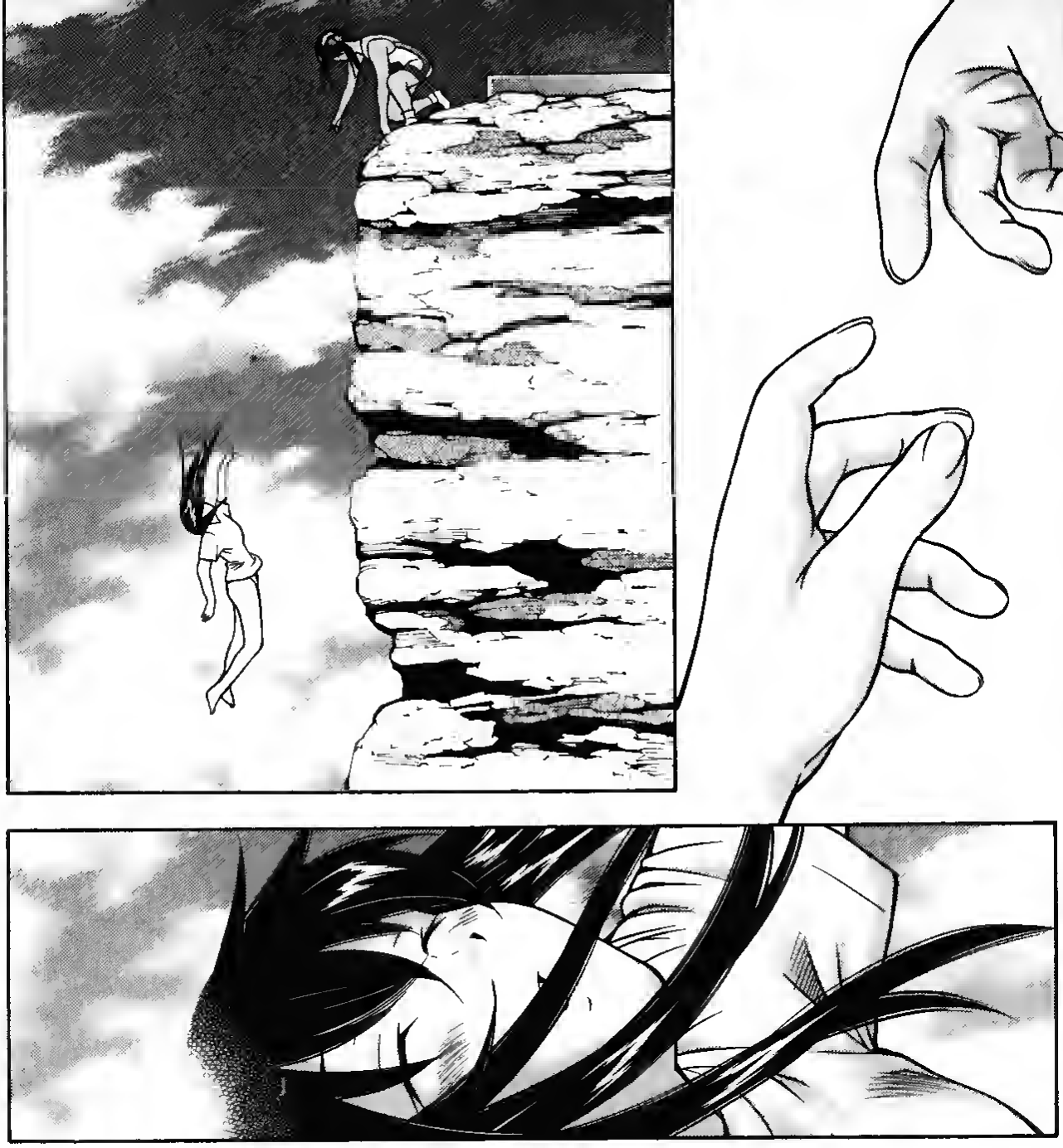






ROUND 5/FIN

ROUND 6



YOUR MOTHER TAMAMI DIED BECAUSE OF YOU.

MAMA...
SHUT UP! JUST SHUT UP!
SHE HAS SEVERE HEART DISEASE...
I CANNOT GUARANTEE SHE WILL LIVE IF SHE CONTINUES TO ENGAGE IN EXCESSIVE EXERCISE.
BUT IF SHE STAYS AT THE HOSPITAL AND CONTINUES HER TREATMENT, SHE WILL HAVE A MUCH HIGHER CHANCE OF SURVIVING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.
RETIRE-MENT IS INEVITABLE.
.....

I AM MOST CERTAIN THAT THE FETUS WILL NOT SURVIVE THIS ORDEAL.
HOWEVER, AS TO HER PREGNANCY...
I'M SORRY...
...BUT THE BEST AVENUE AVAILABLE IS TO GIVE UP THE CHILD.
...WE WILL BE UNABLE TO OFFER HER ANY MEDICATION, AND SHE WILL BE IN DANGER HERSELF.
AS A MATTER OF FACT, AS LONG AS THE BABY IS IN TAMAMI-SAN'S BODY...
MAMA...
.....
Y-YOU WANT TO KEEP IT?!
351
Ginkakoji Tamami

UNGH!
I...I UNDERSTAND.
...I CANNOT KILL IT.
BUT THERE'S ALREADY A LIFE INSIDE ME...
I KNOW...
TAMAMI, DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS?
DON'T !!
CALL THE NURSE!
AH... AH...
GUNH ...
TA... TAMAMI!
WHAT'S WRONG?!
STOP IT!
NO...!
SO DON'T CALL...
IF YOU CALL NOW, THIS CHILD... TAMAKO... IS GOING TO DISAPPEAR...
はぁ
はぁ

SEE?
TAMAMI DIED BECAUSE OF YOU....
STOP!
STOP IT! I'VE SEEN ENOUGH!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE...
...EVER BEEN BORN IN THE FIRST PLACE
YES... IT'S MY FAULT...
I KNOW.... I KNEW ABOUT THAT...
I...I KILLED HER. I DON'T DESERVE TO LIVE...
.....
TA... TAMAMI...
NO....
IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE...
I'M NOT CRYING BECAUSE I'M HURTING OR BECAUSE I'M SAD.
I'M JUST... HAPPY.

THIS CHILD IS ME...
AS LONG AS THIS CHILD CONTINUES TO LIVE, I CONTINUE TO LIVE TOO...
I'M NOT SURE WHY, BUT I'M GENUINELY HAPPY...
IT'S TRUE...
IN THE PAST...
I ALWAYS SAID THAT I DON'T NEED TO GIVE A EXPLANATION FOR ANYTHING...
BUT NOT THIS TIME.
THERE IS A REASON...
...FOR THIS CHILD TO BE BORN INTO THIS WORLD.

WHA...
HUH?
I...
AH?!
OH YEAH, I FELL FROM THE TOWER AND FAINTED...
UNGH!

OW...
NO...
NOT HERE...
NOT LIKE THIS!!
I'M NOT GONNA DIE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
AHHHHHHHH!!!
BECAUSE...
UGH...

OUCH!
...I HAVE MAMA'S BLOOD FLOWING THROUGH ME!
はぁ
はぁ
NOW...
LET'S FINISH THIS!

TAKI, GO AHEAD AND TAKE SHIBA BACK HOME.
ALL RIGHT.
ONCE THESE GUYS WAKE UP...
...AND ONCE TAMAKO RETURNS, WE'LL GO BACK AS WELL.
B-BUT WHAT IF TAMAKO...
HMM...
A HALLUCINOGENIC GAS IN HIGH DENSITY IS INDEED LIFE-THREATENING...
TO BE HONEST, I'M NOT SURE IF SHE CAN BEAR IT.
TH-THEN I WILL...
IMPOSSIBLE. NO ORDINARY PERSON CAN GO OUT THERE AND RETURN.
TAMAKO?
YOU THINK SHE'S AN ORDINARY PERSON?
HM?
HIGUCHI—
YOU'RE AWAKE!
TAMAKO WILL BE OKAY...
I JUST KNOW IT.

I HAVE THIS FEELING ...
...THAT SHE'S GOING TO COME BACK WITH THAT SCROLL LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
.....
AFTER ALL, SHE'S THE MOST STUBBORN IDIOT I'VE EVER MET!
TAMAKO...
...WILL BE JUST FINE.
HAAAA!

I DON'T HAVE ANY MORE DOUBTS!
I...
TCH...
...IN HER HEART...SHE CHOSE ME!
MAMA GAVE UP HER DREAM... IN FAVOR OF A BETTER ONE...
I'M GOING TO FIGHT!!
!!

COSMIC RENDEZVOUS TAMAMI SPECIAL!!
UNGH...
THE SAME MOVE...
BUT...
...I'LL BE ALL RIGHT...
BECAUSE...
...I HAVE MAMA WITH ME!

UWAAAA!
...THAT!
TAKE...

ARE YOU... SERIOUS...?
WHOOOAAAA!!

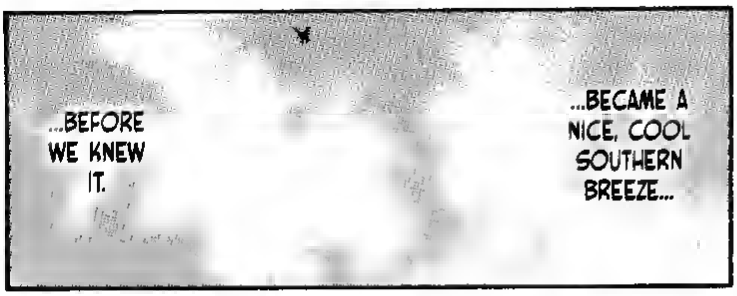
S-SENSEI...
.....
.....
MUMBLE..
H..HUH?
I'M... ALIVE...?
WHAT?
WHERE'S THE TOWER?
HUH? WHAT?
WAS EVERYTHING
...JUST AN ILLUSION?
SOME KIND OF DREAM?

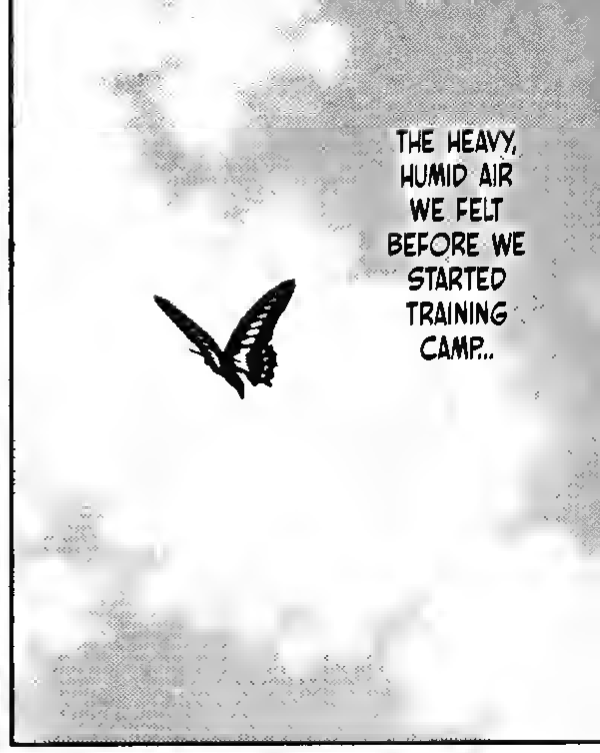
HEY!
THE KEY!
OH YEAH!
SO THIS....
...IS THE SHRINE THAT HOLDS THE "AMA NO MURAKUMO"...?

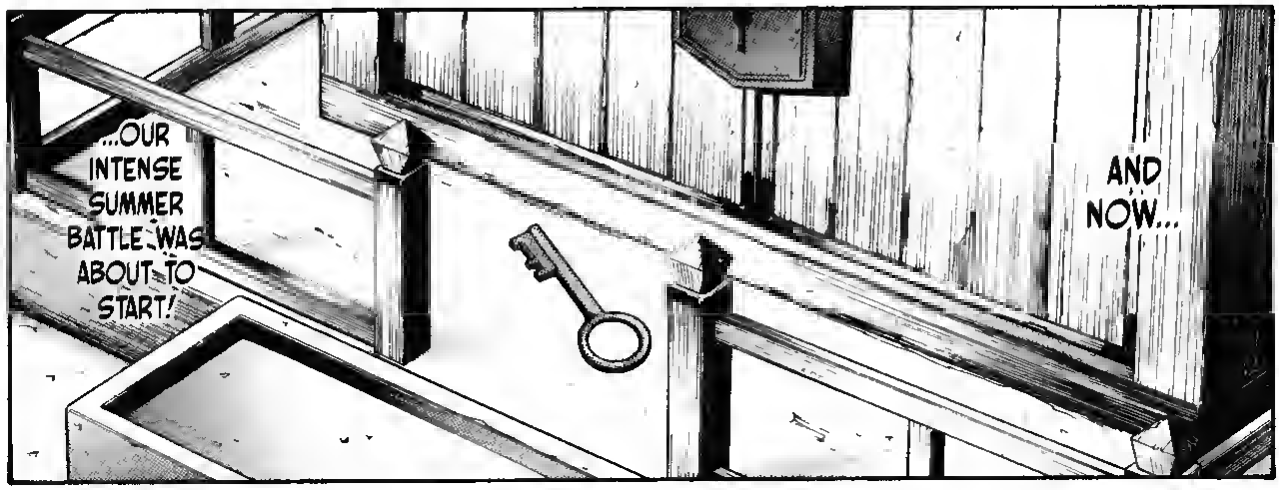
AT LAST!
FINALLY!

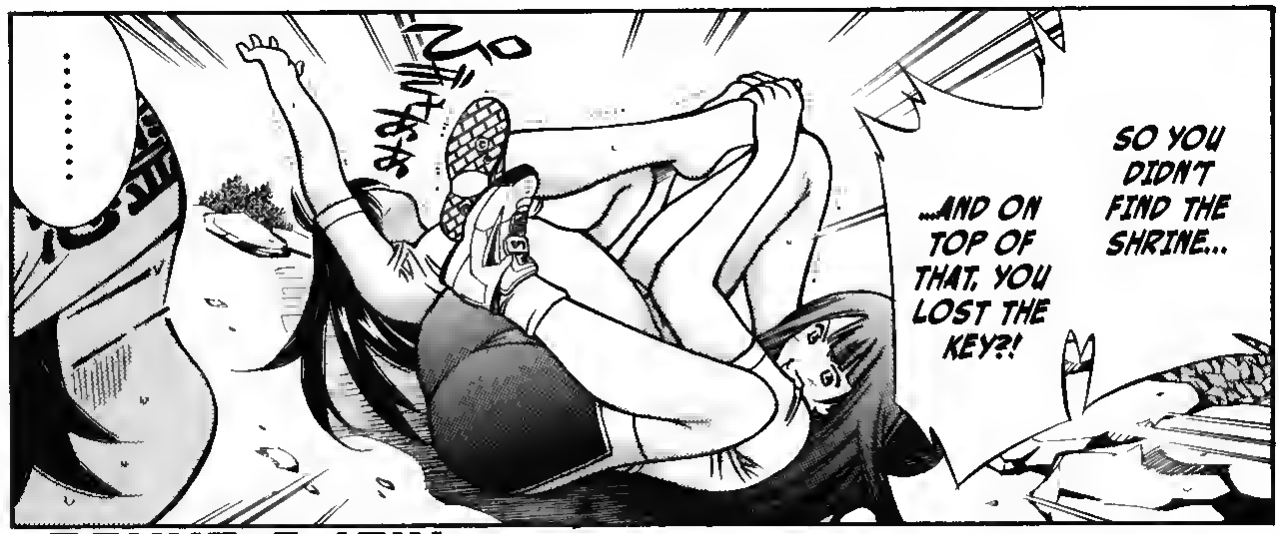
THAT'S LONG ENOUGH FOR THE EXPOSURE TO THE GAS TO BECOME FATAL...
THREE HOURS HAVE PASSED...
ARRRGH!
I CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER!
I'M GONNA GO GET HER!
OR I WILL GO!
IDIOTS!
YOU'LL JUST GO OUT THERE TO DIE!
HEEEY!
HEEEY!

I'M....
BACK!
♡


...BEFORE WE KNEW IT.
...BECAME A NICE, COOL SOUTHERN BREEZE...


THE HEAVY, HUMID AIR WE FELT BEFORE WE STARTED TRAINING CAMP...


...OUR INTENSE SUMMER BATTLE WAS ABOUT TO START!
AND NOW...


.....
SO YOU DIDN'T FIND THE SHRINE...
...AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU LOST THE KEY?!

ROUND 6/FIN

ROUND7
WHICH GROUP ARE YOU FROM...?
WH-
...IS ONLY THAT THE STRONG WIN.
WHAT MATTERS...
THAT'S NONE OF YOUR CONCERN.
HMPH!

ROUND 7

UGYAAAAA!
OH, NO! NOT AGAIN...
HMPH!
HE CAN'T EVEN MAINTAIN THE BASIC BRIDGE POSE...
BUT...
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE STILL MAKING ME DO THE BASICS EVEN AFTER WE CAME BACK FROM THE MOUNTAINS!
BASICS! BASICS! BASICS!
WHAT ABOUT THE SLEEPER ATTACKS OR TACKLES?
WHY WON'T YOU TEACH ME THOSE, GRAMPS?!

ANOTHER YEAR...?
IN ANOTHER YEAR, THEY'LL LET YOU DO SOME SPARRING MATCHES.
IT'S OKAY, MOKICHI-KUN.
BUT IT'S BEEN OVER A YEAR FOR HER, AND SHE'S STILL DOING LAUNDRY!
YOU MUST LEARN TO CRAWL, BEFORE YOU CAN WALK.
IDIOT.
YOU MIGHT HAVE NOT NOTICED IT...
...BUT I CAN TELL YOU ONE THING.
...YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONGER ALREADY.
NO...
HE TURNED INTO JOE FROM "ASHITA NO JOE."
WHY THE HELL AM I HERE..?
THIS IS TAKING SO MUCH LONGER THAN I EXPECTED!
...HAVE BECOME MUCH STRONGER AFTER THE SUMMER CAMP.
YOUR MUSCLES, PATIENCE, AND YOUR HEART...
COMMON THUGS OUT THERE WOULD BE A CAKEWALK FOR YOU.

THAT'S EVEN LESS CONVIN-CING...
I CAN TELL!
...YOU REALLY ARE GETTING STRONGER!
BUT MOKICHI-KUN...
PARDON ME FOR NOT BEING CONVINCED, BUT I'M STILL GETTING SLAPPED AROUND!
WHAT...?
WELL, SHALL WE RESUME PRACTICE, THEN?
WHAT?!
Already?!
LET'S SEE...
MAYBE I'LL SIT ON YOU THIS TIME.
A REAL HEAVY LOAD...
HUH?!
YAARRRRGH!

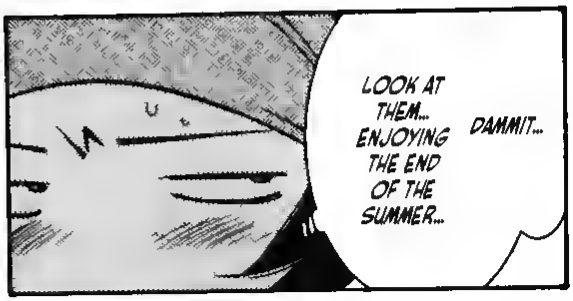
YO...
...MOKICHI!
?
HOW MANY TIMES IS THAT? WHAT AN IDIOT.
IT'S HIS USUAL OUTBURST.
DID MOKICHI SAY HE WAS GOING TO QUIT AGAIN?
POOR MOKICHI-KUN...
OH...
UH...
IT'S NOTHING.
CAPTAIN...
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?

マクドナルド
ハンバーガー
マクドナルド
ハンバーガー

I'M DEFINITELY GOING TO QUIT THIS TIME.
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE. ALL THAT REPETITION, IN THIS FRIGGIN' HEAT...
SHEESH...

HUH?
I WOULD HAVE HAD A NORMAL HIGH SCHOOL LIFE...
MAN, I SHOULD HAVE JUST JOINED THE "GO-HOME" CLUB...
WHAT'S THIS?
Rustle

AND GUESS WHAT?
TEE HEE!


LOOK AT THEM... ENJOYING THE END OF THE SUMMER...
DAMMIT...

THIS ISN'T ANY DIFFERENT THAN THE BULLYING I WENT THROUGH IN MIDDLE SCHOOL!
AND THEY TOTALLY PREDICTED MY WHEREABOUTS!
WHEN DID THEY...?
*If you don't come back with all these within 30 minutes, you're DEAD!
3 - Hamburgers
5 - Fries
3 - Shakes
That's all!!
They even gave me a wallet...
AHHH?
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
IF YOU GIVE IT UP TO THIS LITTLE CHERRY BOY-SAN, I'LL GIVE YOU 1000 YEN.
AHHHH!!

HEH HEH HEH, YEAH...
YOU'RE AS BIG A PUNK AS YOU WERE IN GRADE SCHOOL!
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED ONE BIT, MOKICHI!
HAHAHA!
KYAHAHAHA! OH, NO!
SCENE OF A BOY BEING BULLIED INTO BUYING DRINKS.
KYAHAHAHA! OH, NO!
UH... WELL, YOU SEE...
UM...
GET LAID YET?
SO, YOU STILL A VIRGIN, BOY?
KYAHAHAHA! OH, NO!
WHAT?
...E-MAIL THIS TO EVERYONE I KNOW!
LET ME JUST...
HEY, I STILL HAVE THAT OLD PICTURE!
OH RIGHT, RIGHT.
IT'S ON MY CELL PHONE!
UH... UM... SURE...
HUUUH?
BUT YOU CAN SEE MY FACE...!
IT'S COOL... IT WAS A LONG TIME AGO!
KYAHAHA!

I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO GET STRONGER
...TO GET BACK AT THESE GUYS!
WH...WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING...?
KYAHAHA! OH, NO!
SEND!
.....
AHHH, WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
MAKE ME A TRUE MAN!
MOKICHI-KUN...
I'M SO PATHETIC...
WHAT'S WRONG?
UM, I'D BETTER GET GOING.
HUH?
...IS REALLY STRONG!

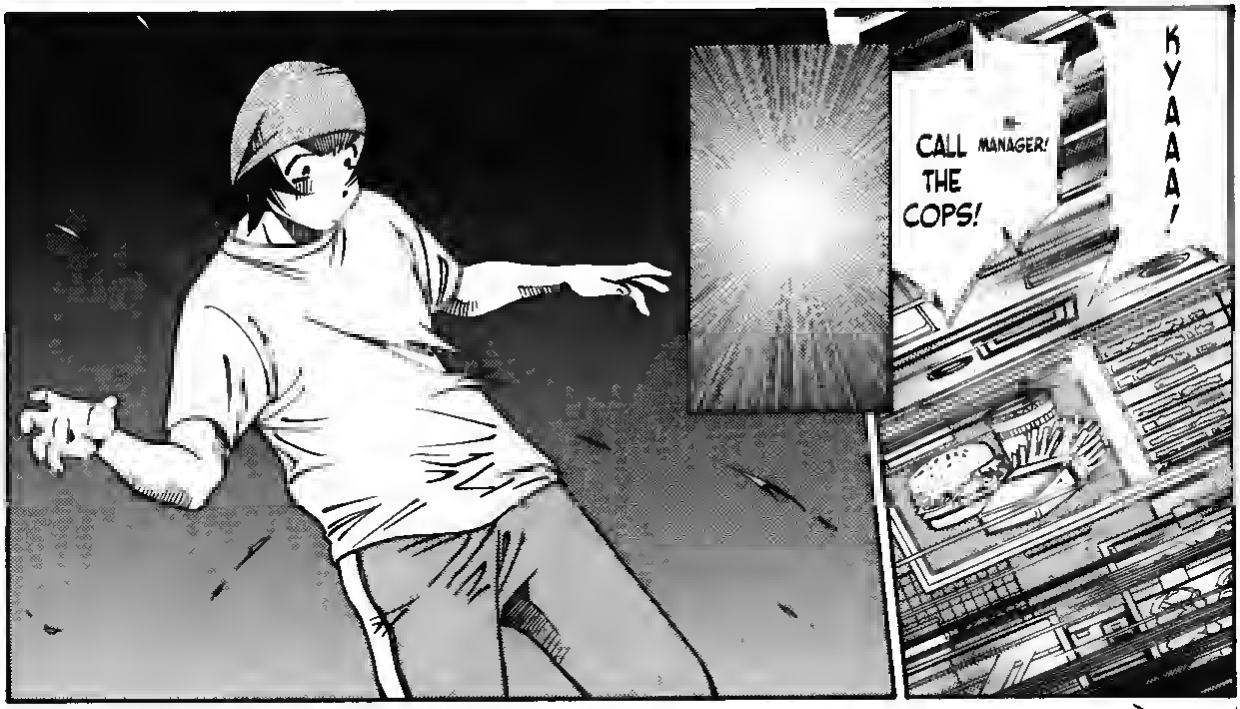
OH REALLY...
UM, BUT I REALLY DON'T... HAVE MUCH MONEY LEFT...
HEY!
OH?
YEAH, WHERE'RE YOU GOIN'?
WHY DON'T YOU STAY LONGER TO CHAT?
HEY, HEY, WAIT UP, WE'RE HAVING A HAPPY REUNION HERE!
KYAHAHA! OH, NO!
IT'S NOT EVEN MY MONEY!
YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT!
UM, THAT'S...
I FOUND A WALLET!
GUESS WHAT I FOUND!
THIS IS MONEY FROM MY CLUB!

S-SORRY.
DUDE, HOW STRONG ARE YOU?
BUT I DIDN'T EVEN PUT THAT MUCH STRENGTH...
OH...
HEY HEY, LET GO! THAT HURTS!
OWWWWCH!
YOU DUMBASS!!
?
AH...

.....
HUH?
QUIT BRACING YOURSELF!
THEY HURT...
...BUT ONLY SLIGHTLY!
HIS PUNCHES...
WELL I...
UH...
HEY, WHY THE HELL ARE YOU TAKING IT EASY ON MOKICHI?
HUH...
YOU'VE BECOME MUCH STRONGER AFTER THE SUMMER CAMP.
COMMON THUGS OUT THERE WOULD BE A CAKEWALK FOR YOU.

HE'S REALLY TOUGH!
HEY, THAT GUY'S AMAZING!
COMPARED TO OLD GEEZER'S THROWS OR VICE PRESIDENT'S TACKLES, THIS GUY'S PUNCH IS...
SO...IT'S TRUE...
DOES HE DO SOME KIND OF MARTIAL ARTS?
I BET HE'S REALLY STRONG!
HOW MANY PUNCHES DID HE TAKE SO FAR?
M-ME?
S-STRONG?
HE'S FLYING! HE'S FLYING!
WHOA!
YOU'VE GOTTEN STRONG...

...WHEN MOKICHI THE WIMP IS GONNA DIE?
IS TODAY THE DAY...
TCH!


KYAAAA!
CALL THE COPS!
MANAGER!

ANY MARTIAL ARTS GUY WOULD GET SCARED ONCE THEY SEE A KNIFE!
NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU TRAIN AND BUILD UP MUSCLE, IT WON'T STOP A KNIFE...
I DON'T BLAME YOU!
HE'S REALLY FREAKIN' SCARED!
GYAHAHAHA!
THIS ISN'T SOME SORT OF JOKE, IS IT?
TIME OUT!
T-

UH... THANKS FOR THE MEAL...
HUH...
SHEESH... CAN'T A GIRL JUST EAT IN PEACE?
HEY HEY HEY HEY!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?
OH?
YOU WERE ACTUALLY A PERSON...?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE JUST TRASH...
WHAT?!
YOU KNOW WHAT...

WHENEVER I SEE THAT KIND OF LOW-LEVEL FIGHTING...
...IT REALLY IRRITATES ME.
H-
HEY, GIRLY...
ARE YOU BLIND? DON'T YOU SEE THIS THING?
I'M REALLY DELICATE, YOU KNOW.

!!
HUH?!
.....
GNGH...
OWWW...

A MOUNT POSITION?!
AHHHH!

I WARNED YOU...
N.O.B
I WARNED YOU NOT TO BRING THAT PANSY-ASS BULLSHIT HERE...
N.O.B...
YES.
Don't urinate
I DIDN'T KNOW IT STILL EXISTED.
"NIGHTMARE OF THE BATTLE"...
THERE ARE NOT MANY...
...WHO KNOW OF THAT ORGANIZATION.
BUT...
...I'VE RESIGNED FROM THAT ORGANIZATION!

...IT LOOKS LIKE SUCCESSORS ARE BEING RAISED...
...RIGHT, SENSEI?
AN UNDERGROUND ORGANIZATION LIKE THAT IS OF NO INTEREST TO ME.
YOU CAN'T FORM A TEAM WITH ONLY TWO OR THREE PEOPLE.
EVEN IF YOU'LL LEARN NEW SKILLS QUICKLY, THEY WON'T HELP YOU IF YOU GET YOURSELF KILLED!
BUT...
HMMM.
THAT MOUNTAIN TRAINING CAMP..
マクドナルド ハンバーガー
SHE'S REALLY AWESOME!
AMAZING!
...WAS THAT ITS PURPOSE?

...A PRETTY FUNNY GUY...
I'VE NEVER SEEN...
...ANYONE THIS STRONG BEFORE!
U-UM...
YOU'RE...
WHAT?
ON THAT DAY...
...THE DOOR TO A WORLD OF NIGHTMARES WAS ABOUT TO OPEN...
...IN FRONT OF MOKICHI AND HIS TEAM'S EYES...
ROUND 7/FIN

Afterword

It's so cool to see Tamako's adventures published into a third book.

It seems like a heavy burden has been finally lifted at last. Some readers might think that a wrestling story is about to start for real now, but I'm going to take it to another level again.

But don't worry.

This is yet another important stepping stone for Tamako to fly off on her own!! ...So, I said the same thing in the last volume, too... I'm a little worried that readers might not recognize the cover as "Battle Club" because it has a picture of a girl in a school uniform swimsuit.

IN THE NEXT SKULL-SHATTERING VOLUME OF

BATTLE CLUB

LOOKS LIKE OUR BUDDY MOKICHI IS MAKING A HABIT OF HAVING HIS BUTT RESCUED BY HIGH-KICKIN' HOTTIES. WHO IS THIS MYSTERIOUS BANDAGED BABE, AND WHAT IS THIS "NIGHTMARE OF THE BATTLE"? WHEN MOKICHI LEARNS THE ANSWER, HE MAY BE SORRY HE EVER ASKED...

AND LATER, WHEN THE SWAN ACADEMY TEAM GOES UP AGAINST THEIR RIVAL SCHOOL'S WRESTLING TEAM, THE GANG LEARNS YET ANOTHER PAINFUL LESSON ABOUT WINNING AND LOSING...AND I MEAN *PAINFUL!*

BE HERE NEXT TIME FOR

BATTLE CLUB VOL.4!

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Tamako and the entire wrestling club are still in the mountains for their summer training camp, where Tamako faces the Second Elite Four named Koumoku—a girl who wears a school uniform swimsuit. Tamako's "battle"? She must retrieve Koumoku's key from a roaring river while Koumoku has to deal with some secrets concerning her late father. Clearly these girls have some big issues to get off their chests, but as the white water rages on around them, can Tamako bury the axe before everyone becomes soaking wet?! Let's hope so...and soon—Mokichi and the wrestling club are about to be introduced to a new nightmare!

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